

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously Presented) An imaging device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the first lens unit includes a right-angle prism having an internal reflecting surface as the reflecting surface.
3. (Currently Amended) An imaging device as claimed in claim ~~[[12,]]~~ 2, wherein the following condition is satisfied:
$$N_p \geq 1.55$$

where N_p is a refractive index to a d-line of the right-angle prism.
4. (Previously Presented) An imaging device as claimed in claim 12, the zoom lens system further comprises,
a third lens unit disposed with a variable air distance from the second lens unit, and having a positive optical power,
a fourth lens unit disposed with a variable air distance from the third lens unit, and having a positive optical power.
5. (Original) An imaging device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the zoom lens system consists of said first through fourth lens units.
6. (Original) An imaging device as claimed in claim 4, the zoom lens system further comprising:
a fifth lens unit disposed with a variable air distance from the fourth lens unit.

7. (Previously Presented) An imaging device as claimed in claim 12, wherein, the first lens unit is fixed with respect to the image plane in zooming from the shortest focal length condition to the longest focal length condition.

8. (Previously Presented) An imaging device as claimed in claim 12, wherein, the second lens unit moves so as to draw a locus of a U-turn convex to the image side in zooming from the shortest focal length condition to the longest focal length condition.

9. (Previously Presented) An imaging device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the zoom lens system has not more than two lens elements disposed on the object side of the reflecting surface.

10. (Original) An imaging device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the zoom lens system has only one lens element disposed on the object side of the reflecting surface.

11. (Previously Presented) An imaging device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$$0.5 < |f1/f2| < 5$$

where f1 is the focal length of the first lens unit and f2 is the focal length of the second lens unit.

12. (Currently Amended) An imaging device comprising:

a zoom lens system having a plurality of lens units and forming an optical image of an object so as to continuously optically zoom by varying distances between all of the plurality of lens units; the zoom lens system including from an object side:

a first lens unit being overall negative and including a reflecting surface that bends a luminous flux substantially 90 degrees; and

a second lens unit disposed with a variable air distance from the first lens unit and having a negative optical power, the second lens unit being disposed next to the first lens unit; and

an image sensor converting the optical image formed by the zoom lens system to an electric signal,

wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$$1.5 < |f_{12w}| / f_w < 4$$

where f_{12w} is the composite focal length of the first lens unit and the second lens unit in the shortest focal length condition and f_w is the overall focal length of the zoom lens system in the shortest focal length condition.

13. (Previously Presented) An imaging device comprising:

a zoom lens system having a plurality of lens units and forming an optical image of an object so as to continuously optically zoom by varying distances between all of the plurality of lens units; the zoom lens system including from an object side:

a first lens unit being overall negative and including a reflecting surface that bends a luminous flux substantially 90 degrees;

a second lens unit disposed with a variable air distance from the first lens unit and having a negative optical power, the second lens unit being disposed next to the first lens unit; and

a third lens unit disposed with a variable air distance from the second lens unit and having a positive optical power; and

an image sensor converting the optical image formed by the zoom lens system to an electric signal,

wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$$0.4 < |f_{12w}| / f_3 < 1.5$$

where f_{12w} is the composite focal length of the first lens unit and the second lens unit in the shortest focal length condition and f_3 is the focal length of the third lens unit.

14. (Currently Amended) An imaging device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$$1.0 < D / f_w < 2.6$$

where D represents an axial distance between a surface at the most object side surface of the first lens unit and the reflection surface; and fw represents a focal length of the entire zoom lens system in a wide angle condition.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A camera as claimed in claim 22, wherein the first lens unit includes a right-angle prism having an internal reflecting surface as the reflecting surface.

17. (Previously Presented) A camera as claimed in claim 22, the zoom lens system further comprises,

a third lens unit disposed with a variable air distance from the second lens unit, and having a positive optical power,

a fourth lens unit disposed with a variable air distance from the third lens unit, and having a positive optical power.

18. (Previously Presented) A camera as claimed in claim 22, wherein, the first lens unit is fixed with respect to the image plane in zooming from the shortest focal length condition to the longest focal length condition.

19. (Previously Presented) A camera as claimed in claim 22, wherein, the second lens unit moves so as to draw a locus of a U-turn convex to the image side in zooming from the shortest focal length condition to the longest focal length condition.

20. (Previously Presented) A camera as claimed in claim 22, wherein the zoom lens system has not more than two lens elements disposed on the object side of the reflecting surface.

21. (Previously Presented) A camera as claimed in claim 22, wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$$0.5 < | f1/f2 | < 5$$

where f1 is the focal length of the first lens unit and f2 is the focal length of the second lens unit.

22. (Currently Amended) A camera comprising:
an imaging device including:

a zoom lens system having a plurality of lens units and forming an optical image of an object so as to continuously optically zoom by varying distances between all of the plurality of lens units, the zoom lens system having from an object side:

a first lens unit being overall negative and including a reflecting surface that bends a luminous flux substantially 90 degrees; and

a second lens unit disposed with a variable air distance from the first lens unit and having a negative optical power, the second lens unit being disposed next to the first lens unit; and

an image sensor converting the optical image formed by the zoom lens system to an electric signal,

wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$$1.5 < | f12w | / fw < 4$$

where f12w is the composite focal length of the first lens unit and the second lens unit in the shortest focal length condition and fw is the overall focal length of the zoom lens system in the shortest focal length condition.

23. (Previously Presented) A camera comprising:
an imaging device including:

a zoom lens system having a plurality of lens units and forming an optical image of an object so as to continuously optically zoom by varying distances between all of the plurality of lens units, the zoom lens system having from an object side:

a first lens unit being overall negative and including a reflecting surface that bends a luminous flux substantially 90 degrees;

a second lens unit disposed with a variable air distance from the first lens unit and having a negative optical power, the second lens unit being disposed next to the first lens unit; and

a third lens unit disposed with a variable air distance from the second lens unit and having a positive optical power; and

an image sensor converting the optical image formed by the zoom lens system to an electric signal,

wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$$0.4 < |f_{12w}| / f_3 < 1.5$$

where f_{12w} is the composite focal length of the first lens unit and the second lens unit in the shortest focal length condition and f_3 is the focal length of the third lens unit.

24. (Currently Amended) A camera as claimed in claim 22, wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$$1.0 < D / f_w < 2.6$$

where D represents an axial distance between a surface at the most object side surface of the first lens unit and the reflection surface; and f_w represents a focal length of the entire zoom lens system in a wide angle condition.

25. (Previously Presented) An imaging device as claimed in claim 12, further comprising a third lens unit disposed with a variable air distance from the second lens unit and having a negative optical power, wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$$0.4 < |f_{12w}| / f_3 < 1.5$$

where f_3 is the focal length of the third lens unit.

26. (Previously Presented) A camera as claimed in claim 22, wherein the zoom lens system further comprises a third lens unit disposed with a variable air distance from the second lens unit and having a positive optical power, wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

Application No. 10/609,232

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 dated February 23, 2009

Reply to Notice of Allowability dated January 27, 2009

$$0.4 < |f_{12w}| / f_3 < 1.5$$

where f_3 is the focal length of the third lens unit.